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GERMAN DEAD COVER GROUND

TWO REGIMENTS DRIVEN FROM THEIR POSITION WITH LOSS 3,000 MEN

SIX HUNDRED IN ONE PLACE

Interest in the Submarine Warfare in British Waters is Still Tense

While the vast armies of Germany and Russia are resting or fighting merely to hold what they have attained in Poland and along the East Prussian frontier, preparatory to renewing general offensive operations, the armies in the West have not been idle. The latest official statement issued by the French war office describes an important success for the allies in the neighborhood of Les Eparges, where two German regiments, driven from their position, lost more than half of their strength, or more than 3,000 men. Six hundred German dead were found along a small section of the line carried by the French.

The statement also speaks of spirited artillery engagements from the Lys to the Aisne which the French claim have been all in their favor.

The naval blockade by French and British warships of German East Africa is announced to begin February 28.

A German newspaper estimates that Germany and Austria now have 1,035,000 war prisoners, about 75 per cent of whom are held by Germany.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The German submarine blockade of the British Isles has been in effect one week. The results so far as is known, is that two Norwegian, one French and five British steamers have been sunk or torpedoed by submarines, with the surprisingly small loss of four lives. Two of the steamers reached port.

On the other side of the account two German submarines are reported missing and a third hit and possibly sunk by a French destroyer.

Besides the vessels which fell victims to the submarines, two American and one Norwegian steamers have been sunk by mines near the German coast and the Swedish steamer Specia and one or two British steamers are overdue and it is feared they have been lost.

Nearly all the steamers torpedoed by submarines were small and slow vessels and at least three were caught while at anchor or while barely underway. This fact, with the failure of a submarine to hit a fast cross-channel steamer at which it fired a torpedo, apparently proves to the satisfaction of British naval writers that steamers with moderate speed, which observe obvious precautions, can escape the under-water craft, and such vessels are continuing to cross the seas.

The blockade, however, has increased insurance rates and some neutral owners are keeping their ships in neutral waters.

With such conditions obtaining the public in England and in neutral countries are curious as to the latest proposal of the American government to Great Britain and Germany concerning the blockade and also as to what reprisals the allies will make to the blockade.

In addition to the loss of the merchant ships, the American government has (CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR.)

LITTLE HOPE FOR SMALL MEASURES

NO PROSPECT OF PASSING RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL IN PRESENT FORM

MAY REVIVE THE SHIP BILL

President Expresses Wish That a Way May be Found to Pass Bill Before Adjournment

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Senate Democratic leaders conceded tonight that there was little hope for any legislation except the big supply measures before adjournment of congress a week from tomorrow, and that there was no prospect of passing the rivers and harbors bill in its present form. It is now generally expected that there will be substituted for this bill a joint resolution appropriating approximately \$30,000,000 to continue existing projects under direction of the war department.

After a conference between President Wilson and Senators Fletcher and Simmons there were rumors of a spirited revival of the effort to pass the ship purchase bill, now in conference. The president reiterated to the senators his off-expressed wish that a way might be found to pass the measure before adjournment. The senators said they were anxious that a report could be agreed upon, but made it plain that they doubted that Republican opposition could be overcome. Republican leaders insisted that they never would permit the measure to come to a vote in any form.

The senate today passed the post-office appropriation bill virtually as it passed the house, carrying a total of approximately \$323,000,000. A recommendation of the senate committee that the house provision fixing the salary of rural mail carriers on standard routes at \$1,200 a year be stricken out was overruled in the senate by a vote of 62 to 10, adding \$2,700,000 to the bill as reported from the committee.

Increases in the house diplomatic and consular bill recommended by the senate committee include the addition of \$50,000 to pay the expenses of the forthcoming conference of South and Central American financial officials with those of the United States. Provision is made for a \$10,000 appropriation for the International Medical Conference in San Francisco, and the house provision of \$25,000 for the city of Panama, exposition is increased to \$75,000.

The senate committee also inserted a provision authorizing the president to take necessary steps to secure from the Cuban government reimbursement of \$6,600,000 expended for the army of publication in 1907-'09.

Until a late hour tonight the senate kept at work on the agricultural bill. Several disputed items went over for discussion tomorrow, including an appropriation of \$400,000 for distribution of seed, eliminated by the senate committee.

German Steamer Captured.

MONTEVIDEO, Feb. 24.—The German steamer Gotha, loaded with provisions for the German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, has been captured by a British cruiser and taken to the Falkland Islands, according to reliable advices.

FEAR VESSEL HAS BEEN LOST

BRITISH MERCHANT CRUISER HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE FEB. 3

TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY ABOARD

Wreckage Supposed to be Portions of Ship Has Been Found

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(5:25 p. m.)—The official information bureau announced this afternoon that the Clan MacNaughton, an armed merchant cruiser, is missing. The vessel was last heard from February 3 and it is feared she has been lost.

The text of the bureau's announcement follows: "The secretary of the admiralty regrets to announce that H. M. S. Clan MacNaughton, an armed merchant cruiser, Commander Robert Jeffreys, R. N., has been missing since February 3 and it is feared that the vessel has been lost.

"An unsuccessful search has been made and wreckage supposed to be portions of this ship has since been discovered.

"The last signal received from the Clan MacNaughton was made in the early morning of February 3 and it is feared that she was lost during the bad weather which prevailed at that time."

Two hundred and eighty men lost their lives when the Clan MacNaughton went down.

Among the crew of the Clan MacNaughton were 20 men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve.

Twenty officers and 260 men were on board the vessel. The commander and the principal officers belonged to the Royal Navy, and others to the Royal Naval Reserve.

Investigating Bribery Charges.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 24.—An investigation of charges that some members of the Arkansas senate had accepted bribes to support a bill which would permit betting on horse races under the part-mutual system was ordered today by the senate. Senator Toler, who made the charges in the floor of the senate, asserted that he had information that several senators had received \$10,000 each.

Efforts to Lessen Insurance Rates

Forest Products Association Start Campaign for Lower Rates on Frame Structures

(By Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—The forest products association, comprising lumbermen throughout the country, started a campaign here today to lessen insurance rates on frame structures and to increase the use of forest products.

A committee reported that lumbermen face keen competition from manufacturers of fireproof materials for building, and recommended action seeking a constitutional amendment placing insurance of an interstate nature in charge of the federal government "that fire rates may be fixed intelligently and suitably."

A report on fire causes and prevention declared that a wooden building with sprinklers was safer than a building of fireproof construction not so protected, because the bulk of fire losses in America was due to burning of the contents of the buildings.

RELEASED

Six Men Held in Connection With Assassination of Banker Turned Loose

(By Associated Press.)

LEESBURG, Ga., Feb. 24.—The six men held in connection with the killing here of A. D. Oliver, a banker, were released today. At the same time, Ike Carter, a negro, was arrested on suspicion of having been implicated in the shooting.

Roy Black, Roy Jones and J. C. Webb, all of Sumter County, were discharged at the opening of a preliminary hearing before Superior Judge Harper, of Americus. Solicitor Williams told the court there was no evidence to connect them with the case.

H. W. O'Connell, his son, Claude O'Connell and his brother, all of Smithville, Ga., were released tonight after a 7 1/2 day hearing. Witnesses testified that the men were in Smithville at the time of the killing.

IMPOSE SPECIAL TAX ON MEXICANS

Property Owners in Capital City Forced to Pay Millions of Dollars or Go to Prison

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Imposition of millions of dollars of special taxes on business houses and property owners in Mexico City by General Obregon, the Carranza commander, was reported to the state department today. Under the general's decree, payments must be made before Friday evening on pain of imprisonment and confiscation of property.

The tax amounts to three-fourth of one per cent on all banks, business concerns, stock companies, mortgage holders and individual operators in the federal district. Foreign companies are subject to the tax on the amount of capital invested in the republic.

Private tax payers must pay an additional amount on the basis of one-third their annual payments.

PLEADS FOR FARM COTTAGE PRISON

Warden of Sing Sing Prison Says Inmates Are Kept in Cells Unfit for Cows and Pigs

(By Associated Press.)

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Sing Sing prison inmates are kept in cells unfit for cows and pigs, Thomas Mott Osborne, warden of the institution, told a joint committee of the legislature today. He appeared to plead for the abandonment of Sing Sing, except perhaps as a place of temporary confinement, and the erection of a farm cottage prison.

"There are now 300 men doubled up in cells where the dampness can often be scraped off the walls with the hands," Osborne said. "You wouldn't put a cow, a pig or any animal where you are keeping men."

IN THE CARPATHIANS

Furlions Fighting Has Been Renewed at Several Points.

(By Associated Press.)

VENICE, Feb. 24. (via London, 8:15 p. m.)—Dispatches from Austrian headquarters in the Carpathians, published in Vienna and telegraphed here, state furious fighting has been renewed at several points. The Russians made particularly violent attacks near the Uzok Pass, with a considerable measure of success.

East of the Uzok Pass the Russians are conducting a most vigorous defense.

The Vienna dispatches say that although the Russians have brought up reinforcements, the struggle appears to be turning in favor of the Austrians.

CHAIRMAN SAYS GOOD-BYE

Oscar W. Underwood Bids Farewell to House Ways and Means Committee.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Representative Oscar W. Underwood today bade farewell to the house ways and means committee, of which he is chairman, as he will represent Alabama as its junior senator after March 4. He presided over the committee at its final session of this congress today and was presented a resolution of thanks and congratulatory by his colleagues. There were speeches by various members.

Speaker Clark later yielded the presiding officer's chair to Mr. Underwood, who presided over the house during part of its deliberations.

NO FEAR OF LYNCHING

Preliminary Trial of Allen Green, Charged With Attempted Assault, Postponed.

(By Associated Press.)

WALHALLA, Feb. 21.—The preliminary trial of Allen Green, colored, charged with attempted assault on a white woman was postponed today. The alleged victim left town early today and could not be located at time set for trial.

Officers are searching for her and when she is brought back the preliminary trial will likely be held.

There is no talk of lynching here. Court of general session will convene next week and the public is waiting for the law to take its course.

Green is not charged with two attempts during the past week, as stated in some dispatches today.

President Barrow Still Hopeful.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—President Edward Barrow, of the International League, today was still hopeful that the New York National League club would withdraw its objection to the transfer of the Jersey City franchise to the Bronx. President Barrow, President Barrow and John K. Tener, head of the National League, discussed the transfer yesterday, but reached no definite conclusions.

SUBMITS SCHEME TO HER ALLIES

GREAT BRITAIN SENDS LATEST AMERICAN NOTE TO FRANCE AND RUSSIA

WASHINGTON HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED

By the Reception of Proposals in London—Germany Inclined to Accept

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Great Britain has submitted to her allies—France and Russia—proposals made by the United States, designed to end the menace to neutral commerce arising from retaliatory measures of the European belligerents toward each other.

Briefly, the American proposals, submitted to both England and Germany seek the elimination by Germany of the recent prescribed war zone, with its dangers to neutral shipping and the adoption by all the belligerents of a definite policy as to shipments of foodstuffs to the civilian population of their enemies.

From such preliminary observations as American diplomatic officials abroad already have made, there is said to be some encouragement in the manner of the reception of the proposals at London. Germany is inclined toward an acceptance of the suggestions, it is understood, but on Great Britain's attitude depends the next move.

The strong opposition which other neutrals have assumed toward the retaliatory measures adopted by the belligerents is playing a considerable part in the situation. Although the American proposals have not been communicated to other neutrals, it may be said that virtually all the European neutrals are in accord with the United States government.

Officials, while reticent about what has been said to Germany and Great Britain, do not deny that the gravity of the whole situation has been made unmistakably clear. In some quarters today the suggestion was made, but without confirmation from sources usually well informed, that an embargo on exports of foodstuffs from the United States to both the Allies and Germany was being considered in the event of an absolute rejection of the American plan for ameliorating the situation.

While complaints have been few, (Continued on Page Four)

Would Manufacture Dyestuffs in U. S.

Capital Ready to Build up Distinctly American Coal-tar Chemical Industry

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Secretary Fedfield informed the senate today that American chemical works and manufacturers of dyestuffs were ready to embark capital and enterprise in "building up a distinctly American coal-tar chemical industry, providing there is adequate legislative prohibition against both 'dumping' in American markets or unfair restraint of American trade by the arbitrary action of foreign monopoly permitted by foreign law and not as yet forbidden by our own."

Mr. Fedfield pointed out that domestic consumption of artificial dyestuffs amounted annually to \$15,000,000.

NEGRO LYNCHED

Taken From Jail by Mob of More Than 100 Men and Hanged to Tree

(By Associated Press.)

KISSIMMEE, Fla., Feb. 24.—Will Reed, a negro, who was accused of having attacked a white woman, was taken from the county jail here today by a mob of more than 100 men and hanged to a tree near Forest City. His aged victim is said to have identified him.

A coroner's jury failed to determine the names of any members of the mob. The sheriff said the men were heavily armed and obtained the key to the negro's cell by overpowering him.

Asks Deficiency Appropriation. WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Secretary Bryan asked congress today for a deficiency appropriation of \$50,000 to meet "any emergencies that may arise abroad," in connection with the protection of American citizens and interests in the war-swept countries, during the period when congress will not be in session.

ANOTHER SHIP GOES TO BOTTOM

BRITISH STEAMER OAKLY TORPEDOED BY GERMAN SUBMARINE

CREW RESCUED BY FISHING BOAT

Main Hatches Blown Off, Decks Splintered and the Binnacle Hurlled Into Air

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(2:10 p. m.)—The British steamer Oakly was torpedoed by a German submarine off Rye yesterday. Her crew was rescued by a fishing smack and landed at Ramsgate today.

The Oakly was bound in ballast from London for Cardiff, Wales. She was struck on the port side. Her main hatches were blown off, her decks were splintered and the binnacle was hurled into the air. One lifeboat was swamped by the great volume of water thrown up by the explosion of the torpedo.

The fishing smack Gratia, which four miles off, felt the shock of the explosion and hastened to the scene. The fishermen arrived in time to take off the crew of the Oakly, no member of which was injured.

The periscope of a submarine was seen before the explosion by the chief engineer of the Oakly. An attempt was made to tow the Oakly to Dover, but she sank off Folkestone this morning.

The loss of the Oakly apparently was mentioned in a dispatch from Lydd, England, last night. This message referred to the torpedoing of two vessels off Hastings. One sank, but her crew was saved and landed at Ramsgate. The other was in a sinking condition and a mine sweeper was described as endeavoring to tow her into Dover.

The Oakly was 275 feet long and of 1,251 tons. She was built in 1897 and was owned in West Hartlepool.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—A Lloyd's dispatch from New Haven says the steamer Rio Parana of London, loaded with coal and bound from the Tyne to Port of Erroja, island of Elba, struck a mine near Beachy Head Wednesday afternoon.

The vessel filled and sank. The crew was rescued by a torpedo boat and landed at New Haven.

Eastbourne is on the English Channel, in which German submarines have been particularly active since the naval war zone was established by Germany.

British Steamer Torpedoed.

NEW HAVEN, via London, Feb. 25.—(1:41 a. m.)—The British steamer Hurlpation, from London for Newport News, without cargo, has been torpedoed off Beachy Head.

Three of the crew, Chinamen, were killed. Two others were severely scalded.

Forty-one members of the crew were landed here.

Reform Movement Launched.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 24.—An educational campaign to stop gambling, profanity and the use of intoxicants among negroes in the south was determined upon here today at a meeting of the officers of the Southern Negro Anti-Saloon Federation.

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CRITICAL DAYS FOR OUR NATION

TODAY IS THE TIME TO AVOID HARSH JUDGMENT DECLARES LANSING

OPPOSES TYING HANDS OF WILSON

Should be Thankful For Man We Can Trust to Deal With Difficult Problems

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Robert Lansing, counsellor for the State department, in a speech at the annual banquet of alumni of Amherst College here tonight, declared these were "critical days for the United States," "how critical only those who are in intimate touch with affairs can realize." The European war, he said, had raised a series of problems which had never before been solved and "the liability of error, the danger of unintentional partiality and the constant complaint of one or another of the belligerents makes the path of neutrality rough and uncertain."

Mr. Lansing expressed disapproval of the suggestion that diplomatic officers be placed under civil service rules, and defended President Wilson and Secretary Bryan against criticism that they failed to retain diplomats named by former administrations. These diplomats could not be expected, he said, to support the foreign policies of the present administration. On men who comprehended and were in sympathy with these policies and were enthusiastic in carrying them out the success of the policies depended, he asserted.

"Successful diplomacy requires today initiative and sound judgment, as it always has. It is the man of force, of originality, of personality, who becomes distinguished in the diplomatic service."

"When it comes to the principal posts abroad, I am strongly opposed to tying the hands of the president in any way. If we had obtained all our ambassadors and ministers by promotion we would not have had such men as London as E. J. Phelps and Joseph H. Choate, or men like Myron T. Herrick and Brand Whitlock. Such men, inexperienced in diplomatic practice, but equipped with qualities which command respect and achieve success, are the ones who have brought lustre to American diplomacy."

"Diplomacy today in wrestling with novel problems, to which it must apply natural justice and practical common sense. Neutral nations have to meet a series of problems which have never been solved. The liability of error, the danger of unintentional partiality, and the constant complaint of one or another of the belligerents make the path of neutrality rough and uncertain."

"Things have to be done, not studied these days. The motto 'It Now' is not a piece of advice in the department of State; it is a command. A question which is a weak old is ancient history. Considering the customary slow and dignified ways of diplomacy the touch and go method of doing business was a decided innovation and compelled a radical change in the machinery to which our foreign affairs are conducted."

"These are critical days for our country; how critical only those who are in intimate touch with affairs can fully realize. It is a time for serious reflection."

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Praises The People of Southern Mountains

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Praise for the "simple straightforward" people of the Southern mountains, and criticism of the "airs that high society gives itself" were voiced by President Wilson here tonight at a meeting held in the interest of Bessie Coleman, Kentucky, founded to dedicate the mountains. The president declared the college was "going straight to the heart of one of the most interesting problems of American life," and added that "the only thing that is worth while in human intercourse is to wake somebody up."

Justice Hughes, of the supreme court, presided at the meeting, and other speakers were President Frost, of Berea College; F. G. Boser, of Columbia University; and Hamilton V. Mable, of the Outlook magazine. They all said that there were three million people in the mountains of the South who need only education to make them of immense benefit to the nation.

Speaking of the college, the president declared that its object was to do what America was intended to do, to give to people who had not had an opportunity to do so, to give them an absolutely equal basis as a basis of birth, but of merit."

"What America has vindicated above all things else," said the president, "is that native ability has nothing to do with social origin. It is amusing sometimes to see the airs that high society gives itself. The world would dispense with high society and never miss it. High society is for those who have stopped working and no longer have anything important to do."

"Those who can open up the great origins of power are those who feed the nation; and when one thinks of that old stock in storage there in the mountains for more than a hundred years until tapped, some of the original stuff of the nation, waiting to be used, one ought to bid goodbye to these men who are going there and using this old capital that has not even been put out at interest, that has been as it were, kept in a chimney-piece until we shall go to it and use it and find that they are from it was that same unity of freedom and of power, and of capacity which has been so characteristic of America from the first."

"I do not see how anybody can think of Bessie and do work it has to do without catching fire."

Doubt As To Whether Captain Among Saved

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Official advisers today threw some doubt on whether Captain Smith, of the American steamer Evelyn, sank in the North Sea by a mine, was among the saved, and whether it is not his boat which is missing.

Ambassador Page at London forwarded this report from the American consul at Bremerhaven: "American steamer Evelyn ran on two mines on the 19th, 4 a. m., near Isle Borlum. Sank seven hours later. Captain Smith, 13 men and Dutch pilot in one boat; First Officer Swanston and 13 men in another. First boat said to have been rescued 10 p. m. Saturday, but present whereabouts yet unknown. Later boat picked up by German scout ship Maren, four Saturday afternoon, and taken to Hejlsland. Thirteen men brought to Bremerhaven and put into sailors home. Spanish slooper Hans Iralo frozen and buried at sea, appears to be only dead. Other survivors expected tomorrow. Those in Bremerhaven out of danger."

The government war risk bureau which insured the hull and cargo of the Evelyn and Carib plans to reimburse some of its losses by salvaging their cotton cargoes if possible. Secretary McAdoo and Assistant Secretary Peters discussed such a plan tonight with President Wilson.

Secretary McAdoo pointed out that cotton was not really damaged by water and salvaging would probably reveal definitely the cause of the sinking of the vessels.

Secretary McAdoo issued a statement tonight showing that premiums already earned by the federal war risk bureau are considerably in excess of the bureau's liability incurred by the loss of the steamers Carib and Evelyn. These ships were insured for \$659,103, while premiums actually earned by the bureau on policies now expired amount to \$753,041.

Premiums received up to today, Mr. McAdoo said, totaled \$1,572,302, an insurance amounting to \$5,645,084. The German embassy today issued this statement in connection with the sinking of the Evelyn:

"In connection with the sinking of the Evelyn, all circles interested in shipping to the North Sea and the nearby waters are again advised to follow the German admiralty's instructions."